

CITY COUNCIL PROCEEDINGS

Tuesday, March 15, 2011

1. CALL TO ORDER AND ROLL CALL

Mayor Osborne called the regular March 15, 2011 City Council meeting to order at 6:20 p.m. at Boulder High School.

Those present were: Mayor Osborne, Deputy Mayor Wilson and Council Members Ageton, Becker, Cowles, Gray, Karakehian, and Morzel. Council Member Appelbaum arrived at approximately 8:00 p.m.

Council Member Morzel moved, seconded by Becker to amend the March 15 agenda to include a Resolution in support of grant funding for the Hannah Barker House to come back at the March 15 continued meeting on March 29. The motion carried unanimously 8:0; Appelbaum absent. 6:27 p.m.

ORDER OF BUSINESS

2. PUBLIC HEARINGS: - 6:28 p.m.

A. CONSIDERATION OF A MOTION TO APPROVE THE OPEN SPACE AND MOUNTAIN PARKS WEST TRAIL STUDY AREA PLAN.

Mayor Osborne announced that there was a 2 minute speaking limit for individuals. 3 speakers could pool time for 4 minutes, or 10 speakers could pool time for a block of 10 minutes. All participants pooling time had to be present at the time the representative was speaking.

Open Space and Mountain Parks Director Mike Patton along with Steve Armstead and Mark Gershman provided the presentation on the item. Mr. Patton provided a description of the West Trail Study area and some of its unique features and wildlife.

Steve Armstead then spoke to the purpose of trail study area plans which was to protect natural and cultural resources, improve the visitor experience, and provide a physically and environmentally sustainable trail system in the West TSA. He then spoke to the key plan objectives which were to manage undesignated trails, make the trails sustainable, enhance the visitor experience, address neighborhood concerns and protect natural and cultural resources. Mr. Armstead then discussed how the Community Collaborative Group (CCG) allowed for community involvement, creativity, a diversity of interests and would support implementation. The CCG recommendations were annotated in the West TSA Plan and included recommendations on undesignated trails, key destinations, trail rebuilds and reroutes, and new trails and recreational opportunities including dog access and horse access. Issues of ongoing community conversation included mountain biking access and no dog opportunities.

Mr. Armstead then described in detail the numerous (seven) mountain biking proposals the OSMP staff had looked at based on CCG recommendations and Open Space Board of Trustees direction. Dog-Free trails were also analyzed based on CCG recommendations and OSBT

direction. He provided data on how many miles of designated trails and closed trails existed as well as wildlife habitat preservation

No Council questions were asked. Mayor Osborne encouraged Council Members to utilize the Hotline to submit questions prior to the March 30 deliberations.

Council Member Cowles asked how long it would take to redesignate trails. Mr. Patton expressed that it was a difficult question to answer. Staff would take advantage of areas where trails were already proposed and would hope to address areas in terms of priority in the work plan. A general work plan for the rest of the year was already in progress.

The public hearing was opened:

1. Tom Needy spoke to his desire as a father to encourage and teach kids to live sustainably. Urged Council to support the BMA proposal as it was the environmentally responsible thing to do.
2. Gary Sprung pooling time with James Lechey and Mitch Smith noted he was an environmentalist and supported mountain bikers on Open Space. He thought it had minimal environmental impact.
3. Ann Tagawa spoke to negative impacts of off leash dogs, preservation of wildlife habitat and the quiet enjoyment of walking. She urged Council to accept the recommendations from the Open Space Board of Trustees without change
4. Eric Vogelsburg pooling time with Nancy Lackey and Devin Lackey, spoke in support of multi-use trails.
5. Gwen Dooley, hiker, biker and dog walker, served on the CCG and asked council to respect the long process of the CCG and thoughtful compromises and accept the OSBT's acceptance of the CCG recommendations.
6. Sue DeRose (pooling time with, Michelle Heath, Errol Korn, Aldona Siczek, Colleen Doran, Rebecca Barkhorn, Julie McCabe, Andrea Malanowski, Christina Weber, Renee St. Aubin). Ms. DeRose spoke in support of multi-modal/recreational use on open space. She these types of processes created more conflict and pit groups against one another. She wanted mountain bikers and hikers to have equal rights as the conservationists. Urged Council to support voice and sight access.
7. James Guerin asked council to please maintain a ban on biking in the West TSA.
8. Ruth Schrath urged council to close NO trails to dogs and open those previously closed. She supported voice and sight control.
9. Steven Haymes asked Council not to close the Towhee Trail.
10. Will Eiserman pooling time with Penny Gage and Christine Cowles commented that over and over all the data and input lead to the conclusion that increased access was not sustainable in that small area. Please do not try to recreate the 18 month process. Please honor and respect the process and the CCG and OSBT recommendations.
11. Mark Eller works for the International Mountain Biking Organization and supported building multi-use trails and spoke to stories of sustainable trails being built throughout the country.
12. Stefan Griebel pooling time with Rex Headd and Max Nuttelman spoke in support of opening the North-South connector trail to mountain bikers. No user deserves exclusive access to a public trail.
13. Bill Weber pooling time with Janet McLachlan and Elaine Hill commented that Council was dealing with population pressure.

14. Jenn Dice with the International Mountain Biking Organization commented that multi-use trails can and do work throughout the country. Higher visitation numbers and higher populations are evident in other areas with multi-use trails. She indicated her organization was ready to help Boulder.
15. Kristin Butcher pooling time with David Holshouser and Elizabeth Pike spoke in support of mountain biking in the West TSA.
16. Tarka Wilcox urged Council to focus on the question of adequately managing the trail systems for all trail users.
17. Dan Sukle pooling time with Amy Tremper and Jill Jones spoke on behalf of Fidos supporting voice and sight control.
18. Michael Eubank urged Council to support more access for bikes in Boulder.
19. Michael Relaney on behalf of the Boulder County Nature Association encouraged Council to accept the OSBT recommendations without changes.
20. Bill Reynolds spoke in support of mountain biking in the West TSA.
21. Laurie Fuller (On behalf of FIDOS and pooling with Ed Mills, Richard Slaughter, George Svec, Kasia Svec, Jessica Yates, Lynn Thore, Deborah Flick, Greg Malanowski, Anna Frajzyngier) urged Council to keep Saddlerock and Tenderfoot as voice and sight control areas. She suggested an adopt a trail concept for dog waste removal and urged Council to look at the big picture and not discriminate against dogs and dog owners.
22. Marilyn Johnson spoke in support of voice and sight control and noted the city charter did not place conservation over other uses of open space.
23. Dan Friedlander pooling time with Diane Rosenthal and Laura Uthoff spoke on behalf of the Shanahan neighbors for climate action.
24. Steve Tremper spoke in support of voice and sight control and did not believe dogs and mountain bikes were in conflict with conservation. Urged Council to seek alternative management solutions rather than restricting useage.
25. Susan Douglass pooling time with June Carter and Roger Harris urged Council to support and honor the Open Space Board recommendations.
26. Eileen Monyok asked council to reject the no dog restrictions on the Saddlerock and Tenderfoot trails.
27. Lisa Drake pooling time with Marti Oetzel and Cathy Green commented they were recreational bikers and did not believe mountain bikes belonged in the West TSA.
28. Cathy Comstock urged Council to support the process and recommendations as brought forward.
29. Harriet Olson urged Council to adopt the OSMP staff recommendations.
30. Cyndi Long urged Council to accept the West TSA plan as recommended.
31. Lynn Israel urged council to preserve the West TSA by accepting the Open Space recommendations.
32. Susan Evans also urged Council to support Open Space recommendations.
33. Catherine Dold asked council to accept the plan as presented by the Open Space Board.
34. Ryan Schutz asked Council to support the mountain bike community's modest proposal for bike access to the West TSA.
35. Donald Gini with the Boulder Nordic Club strongly supported access to Chapman drive for Nordic Skiing.
36. John Olson urged council to support the Open Space Board's recommendations.
37. Anne Ferierty asked Council to support the recommendations of staff and the Open Space Board of Trustees.
38. Jutta Schmitt asked that the citizens be allowed to vote on allowing mountain biking in the West TSA.

39. Karen Hollweg pooling time with Rose Mary Highman and Madeline Goldbrant commented on the process as a CCG representative and urged Council to support its recommendations.
40. Eric Sondeen asked council to support the CCG recommendations.
41. Tim Hogan urged Council not to forget what unspoiled nature held for the young and old alike.
42. Ralph Brown supported the staff and Board of Trustees recommendation as presented.
43. Bart Windrum spoke in opposition to mountain bike access in the West TSA.
44. Walt Wehner commented that responsible trail users should all be able to get along. He noted more rangers were needed to enforce regulations.
45. Linda Jourgensen pooling time with Toby Tenenbaum and Louise Charole spoke for Friends of Open Space and noted that they did not support introducing mountain bikes into the area south of Shannahan Ridge.
46. Michelle Grainger supported additional bike access to allow for alternate routes for bikers to negotiate across town. She had been hit by a truck and after five surgeries just wanted bikers to have other safe options.
47. Nanis Bellipanni was not in support of opening up fragile trails to increased bike access in the southern portion of town.
48. Raymond Bridge pooling time with Peter Dawson and Joan Dawson spoke of the responsibility to preserve open space and support the OSBT and CCG recommendations.
49. Sallie Greenwood spoke in opposition to mountain biking in the West TSA.
50. Vance Martin pooling time with Harvey Locke and Marie Eve Marchand asked council to support the staff and OSBT recommendations and suggested Council should limit everyone.
51. Philip Schreiber supported mountain biking in the West TSA
52. Sarah Moriarty encouraged council to think about what the CCG and OSBT Board had recommended.
53. Kevin Reardon a mountain biker who did not support mountain biking in the West TSA urged Council to follow the recommendations submitted.
54. Ruth Wright pooling time with Pat Headley and Martin Gerra commented this was the most valuable and ecologically fragile portion of Boulder's open space. She urged Council to support the OSBT recommendations.
55. Adam Govove pooling time with Monique Mudama and Gary Thacker supported voice and sight in Boulder and suggested driving to trails was not environmentally friendly.
56. Lin Murphy spoke in support of leash laws so that everyone could enjoy open space. She urged Council to help protect residents by increasing the number of dog friendly open spaces.
57. Carol Cogswell spoke to the need for a speed designation system on the trails similar to those on ski slopes.
58. Mark McIntyre pooling time with Eva Surls and Noah Schwadron, served on the CCG for 18 months and expressed that no scientific evidence was presented that bikes did more damage to trails than any other users. She noted there open space had twenty to twenty-five years backlog of maintenance of trails in the West TSA. She supported mountain biking access in the West TSA.
59. Tim Carlin supported mountain biking to allow bikers to get from one side of town to the other.
60. Jim Ilig commented that the CCG process was flawed and he thought it was skewed with special interests.
61. Nancy Neupert supported the plan as presented by the OSBT.

62. Werner Neupert fully supported the recommendations submitted by the CCG and supported by the OSBT.
63. Jason Vogel pooling time with Dennis Ebashline and Pete Fox and President of the Boulder Mountain Bike Alliance spoke to how much the mountain bike community supported open space land and preservation. The BMA contributed many volunteer hours for trail work and supported education in the community. BMA's vision was sustainable recreation access for generations to come.
64. Mary McQuiston spoke to a proposed underpass that would help bikers avoid the heavy highway 93 traffic. She urged Council to acknowledge the hard work from the CCG and OSBT and support the plan as presented.
65. Linda Andes-George agreed with the previous speakers' comments and raised concern about nocturnal biking.
66. Emily Loose encouraged council to prioritize the West TSA area and support the plan as presented by the OSBT.
67. Mike Barrow pooling time with Bernel Sawyer and H. Goldberg and members of the Boulder Mountain Bike Alliance provided a map showing what the Alliance thought would work in the West TSA. The North-South connector was needed to help disperse the use.
68. Jenna Clancy spoke in support of the CCG recommendations to Council.
69. Elizabeth Allen spoke in support of the plan as presented by the OSBT.
70. David Mapel urged council to accept the recommendations as presented by the OSBT.
71. Andy Malkiel asked council to preserve the compromise and save two of the trails that would be closed to dogs.

Council Member Gray moved, seconded by Cowles to suspend the rules and continue the meeting at 10:40 p.m. The motion carried unanimously 9:0.

72. Botsy Phillips commented that all trails mountain bikers have access to they had to drive to or ride on the road with cars. BMA was here to work with the City and they were only asking for four miles of trail.
73. Kevin Grayson asked council to consider that so many young riders would either be voting for the environment or against it and typically enjoy nature when they could be in nature doing what they loved.
74. Mary Eberle spoke in support of the CCG recommendations.
75. Adam Sklar a student at Boulder High School urged Council to support mountain biking as an active activity for youth.
76. Alex Koukov asked Council to have tolerance and support all users.
77. Jackie Jimmerson urged Council to support the recommendations presented by the Open Space Board of Trustees.
78. Keith Jimmerson also supported the recommendations presented by the Open Space Board of trustees.
79. Hunter Smith spoke in favor of limited access for mountain bikers. Reasonable access should be provided to all users.
80. Audria Bilich felt the mountain bikers weren't given the chance to prove themselves and would like bikers to have limited access to the West TSA.
81. Dick Harris with SOS Boulder supported the CCG recommendations. He asked Council to ensure a tunnel was developed under Highway 93 and urged the preservation of the West TSA and the city's money.

82. John Joseph a mountain biking stated that bikers are responsible stewards and would take great care of the trails.
83. Sierra Standish who lived across the street from Greenbriar raised concern about the safety and character of the space.
84. Catherine Schweiger provided BMA petition language and asked council to read it tomorrow in soft copy.
85. Claire Bensard with the CU Cycling club commented that they were a user group that felt like they were being excluded.
86. Rob Smoke disagreed with the idea of expanding mountain bike opportunities in Boulder.
87. Kaj Gronholm was a bike shop owner who supported mountain biking in Boulder.
88. Sophia Rubai felt the CCG process was flawed and didn't incorporate feedback from all user groups. Please do not remove access on Saddlerock and Tenderfoot.
89. Gordon McCurry suggested a 2 year pilot period for limited use on trails to further analyze the impacts.
90. Carolyn Usher spoke in support of voice and sight control on trails. Her experience with bikers on trails had not been positive.
91. Greg Kocka spoke to a closed minded, all or nothing attitude among the speakers and commented that the decision would shape the future of Boulder.
92. Ivan Junge spoke to what a great family activity hiking on the trails was and asked Council to ensure all users could enjoy the open space.
93. Suzanne Webel on behalf of the Boulder County Horse Association commented that the Visitor Master Plan stated horses had open access to all the trails. VCHA turned 40 this year and prided itself on helping establish open space.
94. Andy Hampsten urged council to look at the future of open space uses, not just of today but for his children and grandchildren.
95. Tony Gannaway rebutted several misstatements in the Daily Camera over various CCG recommendations. He felt the CCG ignored input from the voice and sight community.
96. Art Schwadron who served on the CCG and then resigned urged Council to consider how these decisions make certain segments of the population feel.
97. Brian Hludzinski spoke in support of mountain bike access in the West TSA.
98. David Snowberg commented that bikes were used for transportation and it was important to promote bike access. Bikes contributed to community sustainability.
99. Nick Stevens moved specifically to Boulder to cycle and train to race.
100. Timothy John was hit by a car on his bike and raised concern about safety on the trails.
101. Ben Binder noted health was one of the biggest issues affecting the country and biking affected people both physically and mentally. He encouraged as much support of physical activity as possible. The conservationists and preservationists would veto any opportunity for adding bike trails.

There being no further speakers the public hearing concluded at 11:53 p.m.

3. **MATTERS FROM MAYOR AND MEMBERS OF COUNCIL:**

A. **Annual Appointments to Boards and Commissions.**

(This item will be continued to Tuesday, March 29 at 6 p.m.)


Council Member Appelbaum moved, seconded by Karakehian to continue the meeting to March 29 at 6:00 p.m. in City Council Chambers. The motion carried unanimously 9:0.

4.

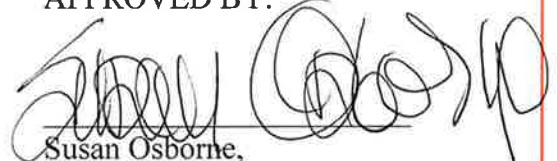
ADJOURNMENT

There being no further business to come before Council at this time, BY MOTION
REGULARLY ADOPTED, THE MEETING WAS ADJOURNED AT 11:50 P.M.

ATTEST:


Alisa D. Lewis,
City Clerk

APPROVED BY:


Susan Osborne,
Mayor